



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

February 2019

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**Vice Mayor**  
**Ward 5**

**Ward 5 Council**  
**Office Staff**

**Chief of Staff**  
Mark Kerr

**Council Aide**  
Lupita Robles

**Council Assistant**  
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Dear Friends:

The next chapter of the Renaissance of the South side takes place on Thursday, March 7, at 4 p.m., with the official grand opening of the new, El Rio Cherrybell Health Center, 1230 S. Cherrybell Stravenue (22nd and Cherry).

This grand opening marks two years of work, with El Rio Health to get Ward 5 and the South side this new medical facility.

El Rio Health was established in 1970. The Mission of El Rio Health is to improve the health of our community through comprehensive, accessible, affordable, quality and compassionate care.



El Rio serves 107,000 patients with over 389,300 annual visits through its ten health centers. El Rio is a community's health center provides to the residents of the City of Tucson and Pima County. People with private insurance, no insurance, Medicaid (AHCCCS), or Medicare are all accepted patients.

El Rio's Cherrybell Health Center adds 100 new health care positions as well as having Primary Care for children and adults, Lab, Radiology (including mammography, ultrasound and X-ray), Behavioral Health, Pharmacy, Dental, and Health & Wellness Classes.

I and my Chief of Staff, Mark Kerr worked with El Rio Health to coordinate meetings with the City of Tucson, coordinate meetings with surrounding neighborhoods and businesses to get them around the table to discuss the proposed Health Center.

I want to thank Nancy Johnson, Enrique Serna, El Rio Health Board President and the El Rio Health Center Board for their work and support of bringing a new health care facility to the South side.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Council voting to support this new healthcare facility for Ward 5 and the Southside.



I want to thank the neighborhood association leadership of the four surrounding neighborhoods: South Park, Pueblo Gardens, Las Vistas and Western Hills II for their support of the health center. The neighborhoods asked for a health care facility, I worked to get that done. More than 9,000 jobs have been created during my time as your Ward 5 Councilmember.

Next is the University of Arizona Tech Park at the Bridges.

Thank you.

Richard Fimbres  
Vice Mayor – City of Tucson  
(Ward 5)



#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This February marked the 93rd anniversary of the creation of Black History Month. From the struggles of Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas and the Buffalo Soldiers to the victories in civil rights that were led years later by individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, Black History Month has served as a time to remember those who fought hard to improve the condition of our great Nation, but to also preserve the rights and dignity for all of those who live in America.

Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States. It was chosen because it marked the birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Carter G. Woodson helped create the holiday with the hope that it eventually be eliminated when black history became fundamental to American history.

Black History Week was met with enthusiastic response; it prompted the creation of black history clubs, an increase in interest among teachers, and interest from progressive whites. Black History Week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday.

In 1976, the federal government acknowledged the expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University in February of 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month occurred at Kent State in February of 1970.

Six years later during the bicentennial, the expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month was recognized by the U.S. government. Gerald Ford spoke in regards to this, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Black History Month in Tucson was marked with events, celebrations, discussions and symposiums across our great City by many organizations, faith based groups, neighborhoods, schools ranging from elementary to Pima Community College to the University of Arizona and efforts such as the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial bond campaign. In addition, there had been the Rosa Park Awards ceremonies that had been created by Richard Fimbres, then LULAC State Director and Clarence Boykins with the Tucson Chapter of the NAACP. As we move forward, let us not forget the struggles that African Americans have endured and contributions that African Americans have made to our great country. The leadership and achievements of the African American community has helped tremendously to make America a better place.

### TUCSON RODEO PARADE

Despite the cold weather and wind, many Tucsonans turned out on Thursday, February 21, for the 94th Annual Tucson Rodeo Parade, the largest non-mechanized parade in the World.

This year's Grand Marshal was former television personality, Guy Atchley.





This year's parade route went through Ward 5 again and it was great to see the crowds and the 139 entries, most in the parade's history.

It was my pleasure taking part again in the parade. Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and his wife Karen, Councilmember Shirley Scott, Councilmember Paul Durham, City Manager Michael Ortega and his wife Pat, Alvira Gallego from the Ward 1 Council Office, Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus, Captain John Strader and Carol Stewart, Associate Vice President for the U of A Tech Parks, also rode along with me in the City of Tucson parade wagons.



I want to thank Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee Chair Ed Stolf, the Committee and the volunteers for a job well done. I want to thank everyone who came out for the 94th Annual Tucson Rodeo Parade. It was a great event in Ward 5 showcasing community spirit and to having the parade on Thursday, February 21, because of the weather the next day!



### LET IT SNOW!

On Friday, February 22, Tucsonans woke up to snow, and more snow falling in the Old Pueblo, with 1 to 2 inches on the ground in Tucson and more in higher elevations!

It was great to see and this snowfall helped our water table too!



### FREE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC HELD AT QUINCIE DOUGLAS CENTER

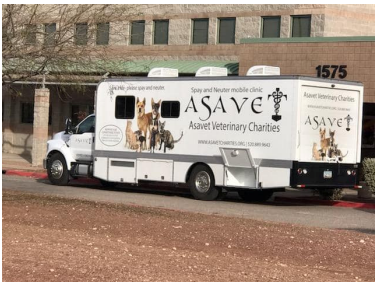
On Saturday, February 16, I attended a free spay and neuter clinic, held by Asavet Veterinary Charities at the Quincie Douglas Center. The animals brought in were also micro chipped, vaccinated and received leashes to help with their care.

I want to thank Asavet volunteers for conducting this clinic and providing this for Ward 5 residents. I want to thank Jerry Neely and the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood staff for being able to have this at their Center, and Lupita Robles from Ward 5 for her work to help make this happen.



This marks the fourth year I and my Ward 5 staff have worked to hold free spay/neuter vaccination clinics for dogs and cats on the South side.

More than 1,500 dogs and cats have been spayed, neutered and vaccinated through the free clinics conducted.



### NEW SOLAR SITE FOR SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

I want to thank Sunnyside's Governing Board and Superintendent Steve Holmes for inviting me to take part in their new solar site at Drexel Elementary, the fifth site of 24 to be constructed.

This helps to save our environment and saves taxpayer dollars. Congratulations to Sunnyside on their newest solar site.





### LOVE OF READING MONTH

February is marked for many occasions, one of which is Love of Reading. During the month, I and my staff have read at various schools in Ward 5 and the South side, including Pueblo Gardens, Holladay, Lynn Urquides and Gallego Primary.

I want to thank the principals and teachers for letting us come into the school to read and the importance of reading in education and life.



### CONGRATULATIONS RAMS!

On Saturday, February 2, I had the privilege of recognizing the Tucson Youth Football Rams, who won the Tucson City Championship Under 8 Title.

Congratulations to the Rams, their coaches, players and their families, supporters on their title and being Tucson City Champions.



### VALENTINE'S FOR VETERANS

Cassandra Becerra with Congressman Raul Grijalva's office came by the Ward 5 office on February 14, to drop off Valentines for Veterans for me and Scott Clark, Interim Director of PDSD. Becerra said this is an annual project that Cong. Grijalva's does to get Valentine's made.

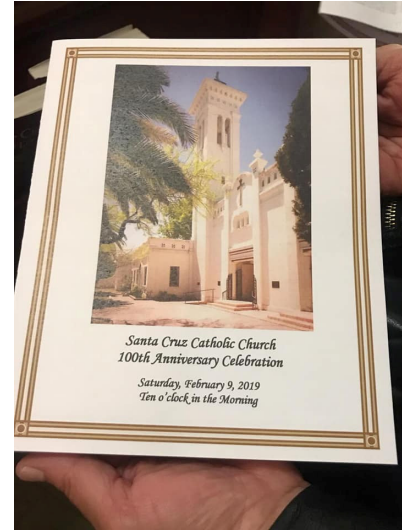
Thank you Cassandra for the Valentine's and to Congressman Raul Grijalva, for the effort to remember our veterans during Valentine's Day.



### 100th ANNIVERSARY FOR SANTA CRUZ CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Saturday, February 9, I attended the special Mass celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Santa Cruz Catholic Church, 1220 S. 6th Ave. in Ward 5.

It was great to see so many people from the community in attendance celebrating one of our community institutions.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY ESSIE!

On Saturday, February 9, I had the privilege as Vice Mayor to recognize Essie Terry, who celebrated her 100th Birthday with a celebration at the Donna Liggins Center.

Ward 3 Councilmember Paul Durham was also there to congratulate Essie. I want to thank Essie's family and friends for putting on the event.

I also want to congratulate Essie and say Happy 100th Birthday!



### WELCOME CAROL STEWART

On Friday, February 8, I had the privilege of meeting Carol Stewart, the new Associate Vice President for the University of Arizona Tech Park to talk about the Tech Park at the Bridges and to get an update on the plans, for which Stewart said they will be breaking ground this year on the Tech Park.

Stewart also held a community update on the Bridges on Tuesday, February 5, which was well attended.

I want to thank Carol for her outreach to the neighborhoods and Ward 5 to update everyone on what will be happening and I look forward to working with her.



### HOW TO REPORT TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS

Is there a pothole you'd like to see fixed? Is a street sign missing? Is a tree limb hanging too close over a roadway or sidewalk? You can report these issues to the Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT), (520) 791-3154, or email the exact location to [TDOTConcerns@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TDOTConcerns@tucsonaz.gov).

### TUCSON WATER UPGRADES TREATMENT PROCESS AT WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Tucson Water Director Tim Thomure announced on February 28 that Tucson Water has improved the treatment process at the Tucson Airport Remediation Program/Advanced Oxidation Process (TARP/AOP) facility to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS, also known as perfluorinated compounds or PFCs). Since completing these improvements, the utility has seen PFAS levels drop to below detection limits.



The utility spent nine weeks and more than \$700,000 replacing 56 tons of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) used in the treatment process, modifying the amount, type, and renewal frequency of GAC to actively remove PFAS. Thomure said, "This project provides a collaborative solution to a complex problem. Researchers at ASU provided guidance on the best treatment options, and our consulting team developed a process that allows us to monitor how frequently we need to change out the GAC as it becomes saturated with PFAS. This will inform our treatment strategies for removing PFAS at TARP/AOP over the

long term."

The EPA has issued a drinking water Health Advisory level for PFAS of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). Tucson Water has established an internal operating goal of 18 ppt, and had already successfully reached levels below this goal by modifying operating procedures at TARP/AOP. With completion of the new improvements Thomure said, "Retrofitting the TARP plant to remove PFAS is just one of many steps Tucson Water has taken to monitor, contain, and remove these compounds from the water system. Our customers can rest assured that their water utility is being vigilant and proactive in protecting public health as new challenges like PFAS emerge in our environment."

The TARP/AOP facility has been in operation since 1994 and treats contaminated groundwater pumped from a Superfund site near Tucson International Airport.

The plant is designed to remove TCE and 1,4-dioxane. GAC filters are used to remove excess hydrogen peroxide used in the treatment process.

For more information, call Fernando Molina, (520) 837-2185





**MARCH NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS**

Here are the scheduled meetings of the Neighborhood Associations in Ward 5.

South Park Neighborhood Association - Monday, March 4 at 6:00 pm, Quincie Douglas Center, 1575 E. 36th St.

Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association - Thursday, March 7 at 6:00 pm at Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 S. Park Ave.

Mortimore Neighborhood Association – Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm at Jesus Reigns Christian Fellowship, 5337 S. Palo Verde.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association – Sunnyside Neighborhood Association – Monday, March 18 at 6:30 pm at Valencia Library, 202 W. Valencia Rd.

Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association - Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm at Holmes Tuttle Boys & Girls Club, 2585 E. 36th St.

Barrio Santa Rita/West Ochoa Neighborhood Association - Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm Santa Cruz Parish, Good Shepherd Room, 1220 S. 6th Ave.

SNAPP (Southside Neighborhood Assn. Presidential Partnership) – Thursday, March 21 at 6:00 pm at Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 S. Park Ave.

Barrio Santa Rosa Neighborhood Association - Monday, March 25 at 6:00 pm at the Santa Rosa Library, 1075 S. 10th Ave.

**Neighborhood Services Contact Information:**

**Phone:** (520) 837-5013

**E-Mail:** [neighborhood@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:neighborhood@tucsonaz.gov)

Important Numbers  
and  
Contact Information

Ward 5 City Council Office  
4300 S. Park Avenue  
Tucson Arizona 85714

Phone: 520-791-4231  
Fax: 520-791-3188  
[Ward5@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward5@tucsonaz.gov)

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**Help those who are in  
need.  
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Community Food  
Bank.  
For more  
information call:  
520-622-0525**



**City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter**

**Frequently Used Phone Numbers**

**Emergency Services**

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department  
DIAL 911

**Permits**

Planning and Development Services Department  
791-5550

**Housing Assistance**

City of Tucson Community Services Department  
791-4739

**Tucson Convention Center**

791-4101

**City of Tucson Code Enforcement**

791-5843

**TPD Red Tag Unit**

837-7318

**Graffiti Removal**

792-CITY (2489)

**TPD Non Emergency**

791-4444

**Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department  
791-3171

**Transportation & Street Maintenance**

Tucson Department of Transportation  
791-3154

**Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242, Public Information - 791-4331

**Park Tucson**

791-5071

**Pima Animal Care**

724-5900

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